

**Joint Meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission
And the Electric Utility Commission
Meeting Minutes, December 11, 2019**

Roll Call: Steve Fitzhugh, Dave Maxwell, Nathaniel Miller, Dennis Donahue. Others present: Town Manager Jeff Schulz, Utility Superintendent Patrick Demasi. The meeting started at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes from the November 5, 2019 Meeting

Motion by Dave Maxwell, seconded by Dennis Donahue, to approve the minutes of November 5, 2019. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Meeting of the Electric Commission

Budget Status

Jeff reviewed the electric budget revenues noting that the revenues for the period ending 11/30/19 (42% mark) are mostly on target with the exception of the Transco and Velco income which is below target (30%). The larger portion of the Transco and Velco income and dividends revenue typically arrive in the latter part of the fiscal year.

Jeff added that the total actual budget expenditures are below budget at 29%. The most notable budget expenditures under budget are power purchase at 27% of budget and the maintenance of the distribution system at 24% of budget.

Steve Fitzhugh noted that there may be a need to replace the battery bank at the King Street sub-station. The batteries have a life of 6 to 10 years and are in relatively good shape. The battery cost is approximately \$50,000.

Update on Renewable Energy Projects

Steve stated that work continues a solution to the reclosure issue for the several proposed renewable energy projects in Northfield. It appears that the issue can be solved with the installation of additional equipment on either side of the system to trip the appropriate reclosure at a cost of \$135,000. Steve added that the National Guard Armory solar project can be installed at this time if the system is run at 15% until the issue is resolved; which will allow the Guard to construct the project and not jeopardize its grant funding.

Land Purchase - 138 King Street

Jeff Schulz updated the Commission on the potential purchase of the property at 138 King Street to supplement the land area for the King Street substation stating that the land owner's sale price at this time continues to be considerably higher than the assessed value. The property owner stated a willingness to slightly lower the asking price if the Town gives them the shed. Jeff responded that the Town is

willing to give up the shed and that he would get back to the owner with a counter offer.

Other Business

Steve noted that VPPSA plans to send out a request for proposals for smart meters on 1/7/2020 to the four vendors it selected in the initial request for vendors. The deadline for submission of proposals is June. If all goes well, there is the potential for Northfield to install smart meters in 2021.

Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission

Budget Status

Jeff Schulz stated that the water utility revenues and expenditures are both on target at 42%. The sewer revenues are also on target at 42% of budget. However, the sewer budget expenditures are slightly over budget at 45% due primarily to sludge management and health insurance. The sludge overage is due to the change in vendors as a result of the odor issue at the Coventry landfill. Health issue costs should moderate due to the change in health insurance carriers from BC/BS to MVP.

Other Business

Dave Maxwell noted that at the last Select Board meeting, a citizen raised a concern regarding the Town beginning charged for sewer at the pool despite the pool water not going to the sewer plant. Patrick noted that the pool water is drained into the sewer system each spring and fall versus into the nearby brook. Dave added that the citizen cited the issue of water evaporation. Patrick responded that the evaporation is more than likely offset by rainfall. Steve Fitzhugh stated that he recalls a Town/Village policy to address this issue. Jeff will research the issue.

Motion by Dave Maxwell, second by Dennis Donahue to adjourn the Joint Meeting of the Electric Commission and the Water/Sewer Commissions. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Jeff Schulz, Town Manager